IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of recoverably recording information as a pattern of marks and spaces on a recording track of a magneto-optical recording medium, said method comprising the acts of:

a) writing a mark region by having at least one sub-mark portion of a predetermined first length magnetized in a first direction substantially perpendicular to a recording surface of said recording medium and by having at least one adjacent sub-space portion of a predetermined second length magnetized in a second direction opposite to said first direction; and

b) selecting the sum of said predetermined first and second lengths in dependence on said pattern of marks and spaces.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1,

wherein said selecting act is performed for said mark region based on patterns of previous and/or following marks and spaces.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2,

wherein the length of said patterns of previous and/or following marks and spaces is a few hundred nanometers.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1,

wherein said sum of said predetermined first and second lengths is set to be greater than a channel bit length.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4,

wherein the number of said sub-mark portions in said mark region is smaller than the number of channel bits which correspond to the run length of said mark region.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5,

wherein a mark region with a run length corresponding to five channel bits is written with two or three sub-mark portions separated by corresponding sub-space portions.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1,

wherein said magneto-optical recording medium is a domain expansion recording medium comprising a storage layer and a readout layer.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, further comprising the act of setting the distance between said storage and readout layers based on a difference between the largest and the lowest values of a stray field along said mark region.

9. (Previously Presented) A recording apparatus for recoverably recording an information as a pattern of marks and spaces on a

recording track of a magneto-optical recording medium, said apparatus comprising:

a) writing means for writing a mark by having at least one sub-mark portion of a first predetermined length of said magneto-optical recording medium magnetized in a first direction substantially perpendicular to the recording surface of said recording medium and by having at least one adjacent sub-space portion of a second predetermined length magnetized in a second direction opposite to said first direction; and

b) control means for selecting the sum of said predetermined first and second lengths in dependence on said pattern of marks and spaces.

10. (Previously Presented) The recording apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein said control means is arranged to select said sum of said predetermined first and second lengths in dependence on the patterns of previous and/or following marks and spaces.

11. (Previously Presented) The recording apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein said control means is arranged to set the number of said sub-mark portions in said mark region to a value smaller than the number of channel bits which correspond to the run length of said mark region.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The recording apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein said recording apparatus is a disk player for a magneto-optical disk to be read by a domain expansion technique.

13. (Previously Presented) A magneto-optical recording medium on which an information is recoverably recorded on a recording track as a pattern of marks and spaces, wherein a mark region comprises at least one sub-mark portion of a first predetermined length magnetized in a first direction substantially perpendicular to the recording surface of said recording medium and at least one adjacent sub-space portion of a second predetermined length magnetized in a second direction opposite to said first direction, and wherein the sum of said predetermined first and second lengths is selected along said recording track in dependence on said pattern of marks and spaces.

14. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 13,

wherein said magneto-optical recording medium is a magneto-optical disk to be read by a domain expansion technique.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1,

wherein a ratio of the second lengths to the first lengths is selected to be equal or greater than 1.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1,

wherein a ratio of the second lengths to the first lengths is selected to be in a range of 1 to 3.

17. (Previously Presented) The recording apparatus according to claim 9,

the control means for selecting a ratio of the second lengths to the first lengths to be equal or greater than 1.

18. (Previously Presented) The recording apparatus according to claim 9,

the control means for selecting a ratio of the second lengths to the first lengths to be in a range of 1 to 3.

19. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 13,

wherein a ratio of the second lengths to the first lengths is selected to be equal or greater than 1.

20. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 13,

wherein a ratio of the second lengths to the first lengths is selected to be in a range of 1 to 3.